

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A recording medium, comprising:

a substrate;

a recording layer overlying the substrate and having a plurality of charge accumulating regions each containing a first material capable of accumulating an electric charge;

at least one electrically insulating region which electrically insulates said plurality of charge accumulating regions from each other; and

a photoconductive layer formed on the recording layer and on the at least one electrically insulating region and having a photoconductive region containing a second material whose conductivity is increased by light absorption.

Claim 2 (Original): The recording medium according to claim 1, further comprising:

a conductive layer interposed between the substrate and the recording layer; and

an insulating layer interposed between the conductive layer and the recording layer.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The recording medium according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein said recording layer has a structure that said plural charge accumulating regions and said at least one electrically insulating region are juxtaposed to each other overlying said substrate.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The recording medium according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein said recording layer has a dispersing medium and said plural charge accumulating regions dispersed in said dispersing medium and said at least one electrically insulating region constitutes at least a part of said dispersing medium.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The recording medium according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein said recording layer has an insulating layer having a plurality of recessed portions on the surface thereof as said at least one electrically insulating region and has a structure that said recessed portions are filled with said plural charge accumulating regions.

Claim 7 (Original): The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said second material is a material whose conductivity is non-linearly changed in accordance with intensity of light irradiating said second material.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A recording medium, comprising:

- a substrate;
- a conductive layer overlying the substrate;
- a photoconductive layer overlying the conductive layer and containing a second material whose conductivity is increased by light absorption; and
- a recording layer formed on the photoconductive layer and having a plurality of charge accumulating regions each containing a first material capable of accumulating an electric charge; and

an electrically insulating region which electrically insulates said plural charge accumulating regions from each other and is provided with a plurality of through-holes, the through-holes being filled with the charge accumulating regions.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The recording medium according to claim 9, wherein said second material is a material whose conductivity is non-linearly changed in accordance with intensity of light irradiating said second material.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A recording medium, comprising:

a substrate; and

a recording layer overlying the substrate and comprising an electrically insulating region, a plurality of charge accumulating regions dispersed in the electrically insulating region and each containing a first material capable of accumulating an electric charge, and a plurality of photoconductive regions dispersed in the electrically insulating region and each containing a second material whose conductivity is increased by light absorption.

Claim 12 (Original): The recording medium according to claim 11, further comprising:

a conductive layer interposed between said substrate and said recording layer; and

an insulating layer interposed between said conductive layer and said recording layer.

Claim 13 (Original): The recording medium according to claim 11, wherein said second material is a material whose conductivity is non-linearly changed in accordance with intensity of light irradiating said second material.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A recording apparatus, comprising:

a recording medium comprising a substrate and a recording layer overlying the substrate and having a plurality of charge accumulating regions each containing a first material capable of accumulating an electric charge, said recording layer further comprising (i) at least one electrically insulating region which electrically insulates said plurality of charge accumulating regions from each other and (ii) a photoconductive region containing a second material whose conductivity is increased by light absorption ~~[[or]]~~, and said recording medium further comprising a photoconductive layer in contact with the recording layer and having the photoconductive region; and

a recording head arranged to face the main surface of said recording medium and comprising a light emitting section emitting light toward the recording layer when writing information and an electrode being adjacent to said light emitting section and utilized in injecting an electric charge into at least one of said plural charge accumulating regions.

Claim 15 (Original): The recording apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said light emitting section emits a near field light as said light.

Claim 16 (Original): The recording apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a reproducing head arranged to face said recording medium and reading information corresponding to the amount of charge accumulated in said plural charge accumulating regions.

Claim 17 (Original): The recording apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said recording medium has a laminate structure of said recording layer overlying said substrate and said photoconductive layer formed on the recording layer.

Claim 18 (Original): The recording apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said recording medium further comprises a conductive layer and has a structure that said conductive layer overlying said substrate, said photoconductive layer is formed on said conductive layer, and said recording layer is formed on said photoconductive layer.

Claim 19 (Original): The recording apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said recording medium further comprises:

a conductive layer interposed between the substrate and the recording layer; and
an insulating layer interposed between the conductive layer and the recording layer.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A recording method of recording information by injecting an electric charge into a charge accumulating region containing a first material capable of accumulating the charge, comprising:

providing the charge accumulating region with a plurality of charge accumulating regions and at least one electrically insulating region which electrically insulates said plurality of charge accumulating regions from each other;

irradiating a photoconductive region arranged in contact with said charge accumulating region and containing a second material whose conductivity is increased by light absorption with light; and

injecting [[an]] the electric charge into said charge accumulating region via a portion of the photoconductive region irradiated with light.